

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

Park Operational Base Summary: The table below shows the annual park operating base for all parks within this state. Park operational base funds are supplemented by as yet undetermined amounts of project funding from regional or servicewide-managed programs, such as cyclic maintenance, the Natural Resources Preservation Program, and the Drug Enforcement Program.

If a park is in more than one state, the park is included in each of the appropriate state tables. The full operating base is shown; no attempt has been made to split the park operating base amount between two or more states.

Congress'l District Park Units	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Uncontrol Changes	FY 2003 Program Changes	FY 2003 Estimate
00 Christiansted NHS & Buck Island Reef NM	1,250	1,261	9	-4	1,266
00 Salt River Bay NHP & Ecol Preserve	485	486	0	0	486
00 Virgin Islands Coral Reef NM	0	248	0	0	248
00 Virgin Islands NP	4,782	4,846	48	-20	4,874

For FY 2003, Program Changes include increases contained in park operations and for counter-terrorism activities. Program Changes are reduced for travel and associated costs by implementing management reforms to achieve savings.

This table does not include programs from other appropriations such as General Management Plans, Land Acquisition, Line Item Construction, Federal Lands Highway Program, and Historic Preservation Fund State Grants. Information on the distribution of funds in these programs is outlined on the next page. There are separate sections on General Management Plans and the Trails Management Program.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

(dollars in thousands)

### PROGRAMS NOT INCLUDED IN PARK BASE:

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANS (See GMP section for further information)

<u>Park Area</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
Buck Island Reef NM	Potential New Start
Virgin Islands Coral Reef NM	Potential New Start
Virgin Islands NP	Ongoing Project

LAND ACQUISITION (see attached)

<u>Park Area</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Funds</u>
Virgin Islands NP	376 acre	\$1,500

CONSTRUCTION: LINE ITEM CONSTRUCTION

None

PROPOSED FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY PROGRAM

<u>Park Area</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Funds</u>
Virgin Islands NP	Construct stone masonry guardwall	\$240
Virgin Islands NP	Rehab North Shore Road	\$2,360

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND: STATE GRANTS

State apportionment: \$347

STATE CONSERVATION GRANTS

Proposed state apportionment: \$50

(Does not include \$48,600,000 for Cooperative Conservation Initiative, which will be distributed to the states through national competition.)

## Land Acquisition and State Assistance/Federal Land Acquisition

### **Fiscal Year 2003 National Park Service Federal Land Acquisition Program**

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Program or Park Area: **Virgin Islands National Park**

National Park Service Land Acquisition Priority (FY 2003): Priority No. 16

Location: On St. John and St. Thomas Islands

State/County/Congressional District: U.S. Virgin Islands

Land Acquisition Limitation Amount Remaining: There is no limitation.

Cost Detail: The estimated annual operating costs associated with this acquisition are \$0.230 million.

Date	Acres	Total Amount
FY 2003 Request	376	<b>\$1,500</b>
Future Funding Need	1,209	\$48,350

The total amount includes the cost of title, appraisal, environmental site assessment, acquisition, and relocation assistance.

Improvements: None

Description: Virgin Islands National Park was authorized by Congress August 2, 1956, to protect a portion of the Virgin Islands containing outstanding natural and scenic resources of national significance.

Natural/Cultural Resources Associated with Proposal: No other unit of the National Park System has the combination of developing tropical forests and fine coral reefs that is found in Virgin Islands National Park. Other resources requiring protection are the white sand beaches, certain endangered species, cactus woodlands, and remnants of the cultural history of the Virgin Islands.

Threat: Privately owned lands at the park are prime sites for recreational and commercial development that would adversely impact the resources of the park.

Need: The requested funds are to be used toward acquisition of a 376-acre property known as Estate Maho Bay and located within the boundary of the National Park. In the early 1970's, the United States acquired a partial interest in the property, while the balance remains owned by the Marsh Family. It is expected that the remaining interests will be acquired by the United States by a combination of purchases and exchanges. The requested funds will be used to acquire these additional interests and cover the costs associated with the purchases and/or exchanges. *Acquisition of these lands will contribute to the NPS GPRA Goal 1a Preserve Natural and Cultural Resources.*

Interaction with Landowners and Partners: The Service has been contacted by three of the eight owners of the undivided interests inquiring about conveying their interests to the United States. At least one other interest-holder is expected to be a willing seller. The Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park and the Trust for Public Lands have been engaged for some time in these acquisition deliberations.